



15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Transport

As I said in last week's email, there are planned works on the rail network next week. North Somerset Council have today told us that they have put in place alternative transport for those Backwell students whose home-to-school transport is via train. They are contacting families directly with that information.

Other students who use the train, sixth formers or pupils travelling from stations in Weston-Super-Mare, should use the rail replacement service or seek alternative transport provision for the whole of next week.

School Events

We had very good attendance this week at our Parents' Information Evenings for Years 10, 11 and 12 this week and we are looking forward to speaking to parents and carers of Year 13 students next week, the day before our annual Open Evening. Please note that school finishes at 2.20 pm on Thursday September 21 and that Friday September 22 is an INSET day.

- Wednesday 20 September at 6.00 pm in the 6th form theatre: **Year 13 parents' information evening.**
- Thursday 21 September from 5.00 pm: **Open Evening** for parents and carers of Year 6 pupils. Families with children in Year 6 are invited to visit the school from 5.00 - 7.00 pm to find out more about learning here at Backwell.
- Friday September 22: **INSET Day:** school closed to pupils.

Backwell School Productions

It has been an exciting week as we have been running auditions for next year's school show, which will be 'West Side Story'! Our Performing Arts department have had to make choices around casting from a whole host of talented potential Jets and Sharks. The process has been nerve-wracking but valuable experience for pupils and has whetted all our appetites for what is sure to be a fabulous production next February.

Simultaneously, sixth formers have been gearing up for their own, student-led production of 'Alice in Wonderland.' The Sixth Form show allows students to take key roles in areas such

as direction, production, stage management and lighting design as well as on stage. As such, it is a great opportunity and we often see students who had not previously seen themselves as performers emerge as wonderful actors, singers, dancers, or directors. Keep an eye out for the announcement of the performance dates, which will be in January!

There are some more key notice and reminders for you below.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

* * * *

MESSAGES

Open Evening for Prospective Parents

On Thursday 21 September, in the evening, the school will welcome visitors from all over the area who will come to see what the school has to offer for their children. This is a very busy time for us and so school will finish at 2.40 pm to allow staff and their student helpers a chance to prepare properly for the evening ahead. We have arranged for coaches to arrive at the earlier time.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and, obviously, if it is essential for your son or daughter to remain at school until you can collect them at 3.30 pm, we will be happy to supervise them; there will, of course, be plenty of things for them to do!

Photography Day: Wednesday 20 September

We will be working with Tempest Photography to photograph our Year 7, 10 and 12 students (as well as students who have not previously been photographed at school), on Wednesday 20 September.

Parents/Carers will be emailed directly by Tempest Photography once the individual pictures are available to view online (secure viewing). The email will also detail the process for purchasing photos should you so wish.

Please remember that if your child/children having their photograph taken (Years 7 -11) they need to ensure they have their school jumper with them for their photograph.

Parents' Information Evenings

Earlier this week we held parents' information evenings for parents of students in Years 10, 11 and 12. If for any reason, you were unable to attend the evening, you can always download the Powerpoint presentation given that evening from our website by clicking on the appropriate link below:

[Year 10 Parents' Information Presentation](#)

[Year 11 Parents' Information Presentation](#) (this now includes some additional information about purchasing Maths past papers for revision)

[Year 12 Parents' Information Presentation](#)

The Year 13 parent's information will take place on Wednesday 20 September at 6.00 pm in the Sixth Form Theatre. As before, the presentation will be made available on the website for those parents/carers who were unable to attend.

Nasal Flu Immunisations

We have been advised that nurses from Sirona Care and Health (part of the School Immunisation Team) will be in school, during school hours, on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 November 2023 to offer flu vaccinations to all children in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

They are being offered the vaccination this winter to help protect them from flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Vaccinating your child will also help protect you, your family and friends. The flu vaccine is administered using a nasal spray, this vaccine is free and painless, please ensure you complete your consent form at

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23>

If your child is unable to receive the nasal flu vaccine, community catch-up clinics will be available, please contact sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or 0300 1245515 for more information.

BSA Quiz Night

Back by popular demand Mr Steve Clarke will once again be hosting the BSA quiz night on Friday 6 October at 7.30 pm, so save the date and start assembling your quiz teams (ideally 6 adults per team) tickets will soon be available on Parentpay.

We will also be fundraising on the night with a raffle so if you have a raffle prize you could donate please bring it to the school office or message the BSA on mailbox@backwellschool.net

Careers Bulletin

Please find below a link to the Careers Bulletin on our school website. This includes a section on careers resources, events and support, including the school's careers platform, Unifrog.

[Current careers events and opportunities – 15 September 2023](#)

If you have any queries regarding the future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email cball@backwellschool.net at please take a look at the following webpage for details on the careers programme at Backwell School: <https://lspcareers.org.uk/backwell-school-2/>

Aidbox

As part of our ongoing support for Aidbox Community in Bristol (<https://www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk/>), we are urgently collecting used (and new) backpacks for adults and children. To donate, please bring into school and take to Reception or the English office. Please can we ask that they are:

- freshly washed
- in good condition with no tears
- all zips working

We are also collecting baby and kids' blankets (all kids, e.g. cellular, fleece, knitted, etc.). Please can these be freshly washed and in good condition so they can be passed straight to the families we support. They would also appreciated small toys/games suitable for teenagers - e.g. fidget toys, tennis balls, packs of cards, etc.

Aidbox and their service users would like to pass on their thanks to all of you who have made donations.

Upcoming Events

16 – 19 September	Duke of Edinburgh Gold assessed expedition – Brecon Beacons
Wednesday 20 September	Photography Day – Students in Years 7, 10, 12 and new students
Wednesday 20 September	Year 13 Parents' Information Evening , 6.00 pm in Sixth Form Theatre
Thursday 21 September	Open Evening, from 5.00 pm School will finish at 2.20pm (end of period 5).
Friday 22 September	Inset Day – School closed to students
Thursday 28 September	Year 11 Geography field trip to Bristol Temple Quarter (Groups 11Y and 11Z)
Friday 29 September	Year 11 Geography field trip to Bristol Temple Quarter (Groups 11W and 11X)

30 Sept – 2 October	Duke of Edinburgh Silver assessed expedition – Black Mountains
Friday 6 October	BSA Quiz Night, 7.30 pm. Tickets will be available shortly via ParentPay

For further trips and events, please see the [‘Calendar’ page](#) on the school website.

Quick link to [Parents’ Handbook 2023-24](#).

LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 18 September](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Home Learning: Key Stages 3 and 4](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

[Year 10 German Exchange 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 German students

[Years 9 and 10 French Exchange 2024](#) – Parents/Carers of Years 9 and 10 French students